

**Saint Francis of Assisi Parish
Second Sunday of Advent
December 4, 2022**

Second Sunday of Advent



Saint Francis of Assisi Church

5265 Placida Road
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www.sfoachurch.com

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Father Tony Chermeil, Parochial Vicar
Father Edwin Mathias (Part-Time)
Deacon Robert Godlewsky

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Beth Hammond, Head Sacristan
Penny Fleming, Ministry Scheduler/Communications

MASS SCHEDULE

SUNDAY VIGIL (SATURDAY)

After Easter to December 31st ... 4:00 pm
January 7 to April 8 ... 3:00 pm & 4:30 pm

SUNDAY

After Easter to January 1 - 8:00 am & 10:00 am
January 8 through Easter Sunday
7:30 am, 9:00 am, 10:30 am

WEEKDAYS

Monday - Friday 8:15 am
Holy Days 8:15 am & 6:30 pm

CHURCH OPEN HOURS

Monday - Friday 7am-4pm
Saturday 2pm - 5pm
Sunday 7am - 11am

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Winter - September 6 through June 3
Mon - Thurs 9:00 am-12:30 pm, 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Friday 9:00 am - 12:30 pm

Summer - June 6 through September 5
Monday through Thursday 9:00 am - 2:30 pm
Friday 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Thursday after Mass 9:00 am - 9:15 am
Saturday 3:00 pm - 3:30 pm

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Call Parish Office at least six months in advance.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Contact Parish Office

Mass Intentions and Scripture Readings for the Week

MONDAY, DECEMBER 5

8:15am †**MICHAEL MOYER** by Carol
Reading: Isaiah 35:1-10
Gospel: Luke 5:17-26

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6

8:15am †**LEROY AND JEAN YANDA**
by Bob and Linda Zerucha
Reading: Isaiah 40:1-11
Gospel: Matthew 18:12-14

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7

8:15am **THE PACHECO FAMILY**
INTENTIONS OF CHARLES FIALA
Saint Ambrose, Bishop and
Doctor of the Church
Reading: Isaiah 10:25-31
Gospel: Matthew 11:28-30

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8

8:15am †**MICHAEL O'ROURKE**
by Aaron
6:00pm †**JIM AND CARSON FLEMING**
by Stephen and Penny Fleming
The Immaculate Conception of the
Blessed Virgin Mary
Reading 1: Genesis 3:9-15, 20
Reading 2: Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12
Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9

8:15am †**BERNICE WOODCROFT**
by Richard
Reading: Isaiah 48:17-19
Gospel: Matthew 11:16-19

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10

SUNDAY VIGIL (SATURDAY)
4:00pm **BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE**
FOR †BARBARA CAMARA
by George Camara

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11

8:00am **FOR OUR PARISHIONERS**
10:00am †**ROSEMARY LYNCH** by Friend
Third Sunday of Advent
Reading 1: Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10
Reading 2: James 5:7-10
Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11



Second Sunday of Advent

John the Baptist appeared, preaching in the desert of Judea and saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!” Matthew 3:1–2

John the Baptist is truly the greatest of the prophets. He had the unique role of being the immediate precursor to the Savior of the World. Many pious traditions state that John was sanctified within the womb of his mother at the moment of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, when our Blessed Mother who was pregnant with Jesus visited Elizabeth who was pregnant with John. Upon Mary’s greeting, John leaped in the womb for joy. Additionally, Jesus says that no one born of woman was greater than John. That’s an incredible statement and is reason enough for us to listen to the words of John.

Regarding the preaching of John, note first that John did his preaching in the desert of Judea. He did not sit on a royal throne or enjoy the honors of the Jewish leaders. Instead, he was poor, simple, prayerful, regularly engaged in penance, remained in the desert and invited many people to come to him. And when they came, he preached bold words to all.

Among those who came to John in the desert were the Pharisees and Sadducees. They did not come because they were sincere but because of their jealousy and envy. But when they came, John said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce good fruit as evidence of your repentance.” John then went on to preach that someone much mightier than he was coming after him and that he was not worthy to even untie His sandal straps. John explained that the one coming would become the source of salvation for many, but for others, they “...will burn with unquenchable fire.”

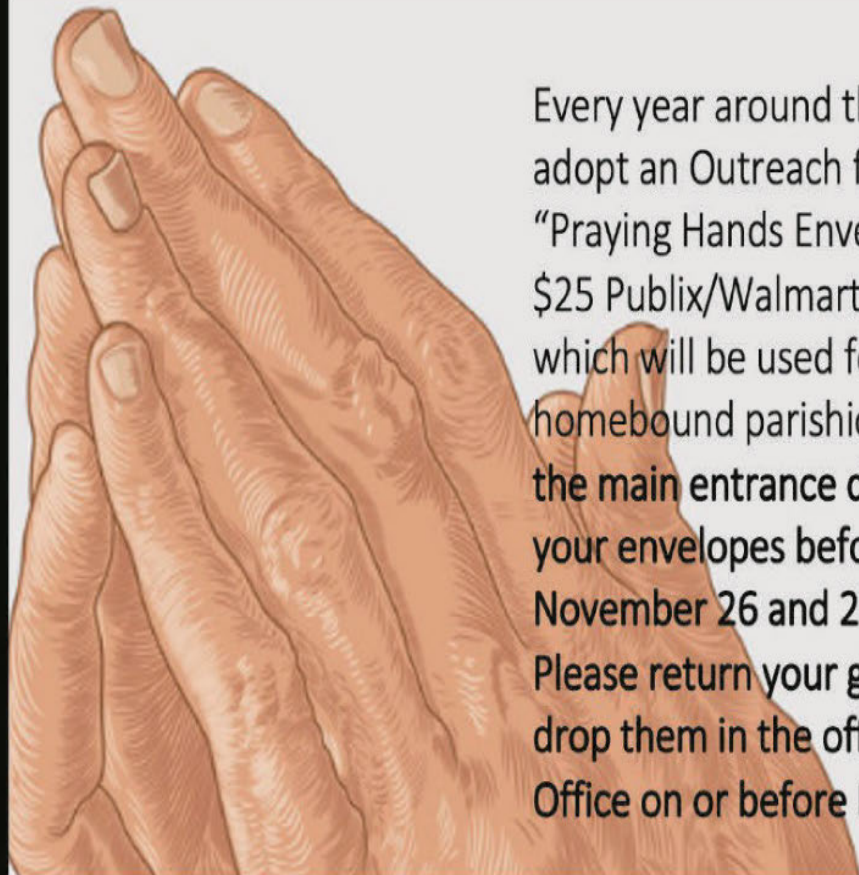
Though much more could be said about John the Baptist, it’s essential that we regularly consider his strong words of preaching and allow those words to shake us to the core. In what ways do you need to hear John’s message of repentance? In what ways are you like the Pharisees and Sadducees? In what ways are you self-centered, envious, jealous, prideful and the like? If you think you are much better than the Pharisees and Sadducees who were addressed with these harsh words by John, then you may actually be fooling yourself more than you realize. The humble soul will also see the sin in their soul and will always allow the powerful words spoken by John and by our Lord to lead them to deeper repentance.

Reflect, today, upon the unerring truth that you need to repent. You do. The only person who doesn’t need to daily repent is the one who lives perpetually in a state of perfect communion with the Most Holy Trinity. But these holy souls are rare. Don’t be offended by this truth but rejoice in it. Give thanks to God for the strong words of Saint John the Baptist, spoken to the Pharisees and Sadducees, and allow yourself to hear those words yourself, as if they were spoken just for you. Receive them with humility and rejoicing and allow them to prepare you more fully to receive our Divine Lord more deeply into your soul this Advent season.

My powerful Lord, You sent Saint John the Baptist before You, so as to prepare many hearts to receive You and Your transforming truth. Please humble me, dear Lord, so that I will listen to the words spoken by John and will indeed continually repent of all of my sin with all my heart. Jesus, I trust in You.

PARISH OUTREACH ADVENT FOOD DRIVE

The holidays can be a difficult time for many, especially for those living on a tight budget after Hurricane Ian – many of our parishioners find themselves in a food crisis. Our persons-in-need getting food has increased two-fold. Our Food Pantry is at an all-time low. We need your help. Our SFOA Outreach Ministry is asking that you pick-up a few extra much-needed items each week during Advent and drop them off at the Parish Office during normal business hours or at the Church before and after Mass on December 10 and 11th. **The third week of Advent we are asking for donations of: canned baked beans, rice (white or brown), oatmeal, paper towels, and toothbrushes.**



Every year around this time we ask parishioners to adopt an Outreach family-in-need by picking up a “Praying Hands Envelope” and returning it with a \$25 Publix/Walmart Gift Card or \$25 Gas Card which will be used for a family-in-need or one of our homebound parishioners. **Baskets will be located at the main entrance doors of the Church to pick-up your envelopes before and after the Masses on November 26 and 27, First Sunday of Advent. Please return your gift card in the envelope and drop them in the offertory basket or at the Parish Office on or before December 9th.**

Christmas and New Year's Mass Schedule

Solemnity of The Nativity of the Lord
Christmas Eve

4:00 PM Children's Nativity Drama

8:00 PM Vigil

Solemnity of The Nativity of the Lord
Christmas Morning

8:00 AM and 10:00 AM



Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

December 31, 2022 4:00 PM

January 1, 2023 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM



Mass in Spanish with Fr. Emmanuel E. Saint-Hilaire and a FIESTA

to celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Sunday, December 11

Mass: 5pm in Church

Fiesta: 6pm-8pm

in the Parish Center

with Mariachi's and Mexican Food

All are Welcome!

Note that the Mass will be in Spanish





Rosary Rally with Religious Education



The month of October is dedicated to the Holy Rosary. October includes the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary (October 7). We started each Religious Education Tuesday evening session with praying a decade of the rosary. We, as Catholic educators, can help our students draw closer to Jesus and Mary by praying and meditating on the great mysteries of the rosary. In our needs, we can turn to Mary for Her help and intercession, and nothing brings Her more happiness than to respond to our needs. She wants to bring Jesus' peace and joy into our lives and our families.

Christmas Dinner Dance with the Knights of Columbus

Friday December 9, 2022

5:00pm to 10:00pm

American Legion Post 113

3436 Indiana Rd. Rotonda West, FL 33947

Join your fellow Parishioners and enjoy
hors d'oeuvres and a catered dinner of
prime rib or baked cod, mashed potatoes,
vegetables, salad, rolls, coffee, tea and
dessert. Holiday dance music provided by

Seasons of Sound Dance Band!

Tickets on sale in the

Parish Office

\$30 Per Person

with a cash bar



Knights of Columbus



Complimentary Pancake Breakfast with Santa

**December 18, 2022
8:30 - 11:30am
in the Parish Center**

The Knights of Columbus Council 7672 is sponsoring this Pancake Breakfast for our community, especially including children, with no admission fee for anyone. This event is a gift from us to all who have suffered, starting with the pandemic, and then the two recent storms --- all of which has upended many peoples' lives so much. Santa Claus will make an appearance, and all children will receive a gift.

All are welcome!



Ministry Week for Saint Francis of Assisi Church

	Start	End	Event - Location
Mon Dec 5	7:50am	9:00am	Rosary/Mass/Anointing/Chaplet - Church
	9:00am	11:00am	Parish Stewardship Ministry - Church
	9:15am	11:15am	Parish Food Pantry Ministry - Parish Center
	9:15am	11:30am	Rosary Makers - Room 6
	10:30am	11:00am	Priest Anoints at Englewood Hospice House
	11:45am	12:30pm	Lectio Divina - Gospel Prayer - Church
	6:00pm	8:00pm	Knights Officer's Meeting - Parish Center
Tues Dec 6	7:50am	8:45am	Rosary/Mass - Church
	8:45am	9:45am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Adoration - Church
	9:50am	10:00am	Benediction - Church
	10:00am	11:00am	Bereavement Ministry - Parish Conference Room
	1:00pm	3:00pm	Women's Bible Study - Parish Conference Room
	5:30pm	6:45pm	Religious Education K thru 8th Grade - Parish Center
Wed Dec 7	7:50am	8:45am	Rosary/Mass - Church
	9:15am	11:15am	Parish Food Pantry Ministry - Parish Center
	11:00am	2:30pm	Parish Women's Guild Card Party - Parish Center
	6:00pm	8:00pm	Choir Practice - Church
	7:00pm	8:00pm	AA - Parish Hall
Thurs Dec 8			Immaculate Conception - Holy Day - Parish Office Closed
	6:45am	8:00am	That Man is You! - Parish Center
	7:50am	8:45am	Rosary/Mass - Church
	9:00am	9:15am	Sacrament of Reconciliation - Church
	6:00pm	7:00pm	Mass for the Immaculate Conception - Church
Fri Dec 9	7:50am	8:45am	Rosary/Mass - Church
	9:15am	11:15am	Parish Food Pantry Ministry - Parish Center
	9:15am	10:45am	Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA)
	2:30pm	3:00pm	Priest Anoints at Englewood Hospice House
Sat Dec 10			Recalling and Renewing our Confirmation
	3:00pm	3:30pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation - Church
	4:00pm	5:00pm	Holy Sacrifice of the Mass - Church
Sun Dec 11	8:00am	9:00am	Holy Sacrifice of the Mass - Church
	10:00am	11:00am	Holy Sacrifice of the Mass - Church
	10:00am	1:30pm	Family Mass and Confirmation Prep - Church and Conference Room

For the most updated Calendar please go to www.sfoachurch.com

PARISH WOMEN'S GUILD

December Card Party

December 7, 2022 11:00am

RESERVE YOUR TABLE BY DECEMBER 5

**RESERVE YOUR TABLES AT SFOACHURCH.COM
BY CLICKING PARISH LIFE - PARISH WOMEN'S GUILD
AND SCROLL DOWN TO CARD PARTY
AND CLICK REGISTER.
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